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θ -CLOSED SUBSETS OF HAUSDORFF SPACES

RAYMOND FRANK DICKMAN AND JACK RAY PORTER

θ -CLOSED SUBSETS OF HAUSDORFF SPACES

R. F. DICKMAN, JR. AND JACK R. PORTER

A topological property of subspaces of a Hausdorff space, called θ -closed, is introduced and used to prove and interrelate a number of different results. A compact subspace of a Hausdorff space is θ -closed, and a θ -closed subspace of a Hausdorff space is closed. A Hausdorff space X with property that every continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space is closed is shown to have the property that every θ -continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space is closed. Those Hausdorff spaces in which the Fomin H -closed extension operator commutes with the projective cover (absolute) operator are characterized. An H -closed space is shown not to be the countable union of θ -closed nowhere dense subspaces. Also, an equivalent form of Martin's Axiom in terms of the class of H -closed spaces with the countable chain condition is given.

1. Preliminaries. For a space X and $A \subseteq X$, the θ -closure of A , denoted as $\text{cl}_\theta A$, is $\{x \in X: \text{every closed neighborhood of } x \text{ meets } A\}$. The subset A is θ -closed if $\text{cl}_\theta A = A$. Similarly, the θ -interior of A , denoted as $\text{int}_\theta A$, is $\{x \in X: \text{some closed neighborhood of } x \text{ is contained in } A\}$. Clearly, $\text{cl}_\theta A$ is closed and $\text{int}_\theta A$ is open. The concept of θ -closure was introduced by Velicko [15] and used by the authors in [3]. Also introduced in [15] is the concept of a H -set: a subset A of a Hausdorff space X is an H -set if every cover of A by sets open in X has a finite subfamily whose closures in X cover A ; this concept was independently introduced in [11] and called H -closed relative to X . An open filter is a filter with a filter base consisting of open sets. A maximal open filter is called an open ultrafilter. A filter \mathcal{F} on X is said to be free if $\text{ad}_x \mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$, otherwise, \mathcal{F} is said to be fixed. A subset A of X is far from the remainder (f.f.r.) [1] in X if for every free open ultrafilter \mathcal{U} on X , there is open $U \in \mathcal{U}$ such that $\text{cl}_x U \cap A = \emptyset$; a subset A of X is rigid in X [3] if for every filter base \mathcal{F} on X such that $A \cap \{\text{cl}_\theta F: F \in \mathcal{F}\} = \emptyset$, there is open set U containing A and $F \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $\text{cl} U \cap F = \emptyset$. The following facts are used in the sequel:

- (1.1) In $A \subseteq B \subseteq X$ and A is θ -closed in X , then A is θ -closed in B .
- (1.2) A compact subset of a Hausdorff space is θ -closed.
- (1.3) [15] A θ -closed subset of an H -closed space is an H -set.
- (1.4) [3] Let A be a subset of a space X . The following are

equivalent:

- (a) A is rigid in X .
- (b) For any filter base \mathcal{F} on X , if $A \cap \bigcap \{\text{cl}_\theta F : F \in \mathcal{F}\} = \emptyset$, then for some $F \in \mathcal{F}$, $A \cap \text{cl}_\theta F = \emptyset$.
- (c) For each cover \mathcal{A} of A by open subsets of X , there is a finite subfamily $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ such that $A \subseteq \text{int cl}(\bigcup \mathcal{B})$.
- (d) For every open filter \mathcal{G} on X such that $A \cap \bigcap \{\text{cl } U : U \in \mathcal{G}\} = \emptyset$, there is $U \in \mathcal{G}$ such that $A \cap \text{cl } U = \emptyset$,
- (1.5) [3] Disjoint rigid subsets in a Hausdorff space can be separated by disjoint open sets.
- (1.6) [3] If A is rigid in X , then A is f.f.r. in X .

Since any closed subset of a regular Hausdorff space is θ -closed and since there are regular Hausdorff spaces with noncompact closed subsets, then the converse of 1.2 is false. In [3], it was shown that every rigid subset of a Hausdorff space is an H -set. Thus, the converse of 1.3 is false since the subset X in the space Y described in Example 1.1 in [3] is rigid in Y but is not θ -closed in Y . On the other hand, by Theorem 4 in [15] a subset of an H -closed, Urysohn space is θ -closed if and only if it is an H -set. Since an H -closed regular space is compact, then a subset of an H -closed, regular space is θ -closed if and only if it is compact. By 1.2 and 1.3, the concept of " θ -closedness" is similar to the concept of " H -closure" in the sense that both are bracketed by the concepts of "compactness" and " H -set".

Also, needed in the sequel is a few definition about semiregularity, θ -continuity, and extensions. For a space X , X_s is used to denote X plus the topology generated by the regular-open subsets (a subset is regular-open if it is the interior of the closure of itself). A space X is *semi-regular* if $X = X_s$; in particular, $(X_s)_s = X_s$.

A function $f: X \rightarrow Y$, where X and Y are spaces, is θ -continuous if for each $x \in X$ and open subset U of $f(x)$, there is an open subset V of x such that $f(\text{cl } V) \subseteq \text{cl } U$. The Katětov extension [9] (resp. Fomin extension [5]) of a Hausdorff space X is denoted as κX (resp. σX); these H -closed extensions are studied in [12, 13]. In [11], it is shown that if Y is an H -closed extension of X , then there is a continuous surjection $f: \kappa X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(x) = x$ for $x \in X$.

2. θ -closed subsets of H -closed spaces. For a space X and a subset $A \subseteq X$, we will let X/A denote the set X with A identified to a point and endowed with the quotient topology.

(2.1) Let X be a Hausdorff space and $A \subseteq X$. The following are equivalent:

- (a) A is θ -closed in X .
- (b) X/A is Hausdorff.
- (c) A is the point-inverse of a continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space.
- (d) A is the point-inverse of a θ -continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space.

Proof. The proof of the equivalence of (a) and (b) is straightforward to prove. Clearly, (b) implies (c) and (c) implies (d). To show (d) implies (a), let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a θ -continuous function into a Hausdorff space Y , $A = f^{-1}(y)$ for some $y \in Y$, and $x \notin A$. There is open set U of $f(x)$ in Y such that $y \notin \text{cl } U$. Since there is open set V of x such that $f(\text{cl } V) \subseteq \text{cl } U$, then $\text{cl } V \cap A = \emptyset$.

(2.2) Let X be a Hausdorff space and $A \subseteq X$. The following are equivalent:

- (a) A is θ -closed in κX .
- (b) A is rigid in X .
- (c) A is f.f.r. in X and A is θ -closed in X .

Proof. (a) *implies* (b). Let \mathcal{A} be a cover of A by open subsets of X . For $p \in \kappa X \setminus A$, let U_p be an open subset of κX containing p such that $\text{cl}_{\kappa X} U_p \cap A = \emptyset$. There is a finite subset $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ and finite subset $B \subseteq \kappa X \setminus A$ such that

$$\kappa X = \bigcup \{\text{cl}_{\kappa X} U_p: p \in B\} \cup \bigcup \{\text{cl}_{\kappa X} V: V \in \mathcal{B}\}.$$

Thus, $A \subseteq X \setminus \bigcup \{\text{cl}_X (U_p \cap X): p \in B\} \subseteq \bigcup \{\text{cl}_X V: V \in \mathcal{B}\}$, and by 1.4, A is rigid in X .

(b) *implies* (c). By 1.6, A is f.f.r. in X . Suppose $p \in X \setminus A$. Then A and p are disjoint rigid subsets and, by 1.5, can be separated by disjoint open sets. Hence, A is θ -closed in X .

(c) *implies* (a). Let $p \in X \setminus A$. Since A is θ -closed in X , then there is an open set U in X such that $p \in U$ and $\text{cl}_X U \cap A = \emptyset$. Since X is open in κX , then U is open in κX and $\text{cl}_{\kappa X} U = \text{cl}_X U \cup B$ where $B = \{q \in \kappa K \setminus K: U \in q\}$. Thus, $A \cap \text{cl}_{\kappa X} U = \emptyset$. Suppose $p \in \kappa X \setminus X$ (thus, $p \notin A$). Then p is a free open ultrafilter on X and there is open set $U \in p$ such that $\text{cl}_X U \cap A = \emptyset$. Now, $U \cup \{p\}$ is open in κX and contains p and $\text{cl}_{\kappa X} (U \cup \{p\}) = \text{cl}_X U \cup B$ where B is the same as above. Thus, $A \cap \text{cl}_{\kappa X} (U \cup \{p\}) = \emptyset$.

By 2.2 and 1.1, it follows that a rigid subset of a Hausdorff space is θ -closed in the space.

Let X and Y be Hausdorff spaces and $f: X \rightarrow Y$ a continuous function. We say f is *absolutely closed* [17] if f cannot be continuously extended to a proper Hausdorff extension Z of X and is

regular closed [2] if the image of the closure of an open set is closed. Dickman [2] proved that f is absolutely closed if and only if f is regular closed and point-inverses are f.f.r. in X . By 2.1 and 2.2, this statement converts into the following:

(2.3) Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous where X and Y are Hausdorff spaces. The following are equivalent:

- (a) f is absolutely closed.
- (b) f is regular closed and point-inverses are f.f.r. in X .
- (c) f is regular closed and point-inverses are rigid in X .

Another consequence of 2.2, in combination with 1.5, is the following result.

(2.4) Disjoint θ -closed subsets of an H -closed space are contained in disjoint open subsets.

In [9], Katětov shows that if every closed subset of an Hausdorff space X is H -closed, then X is compact. Similarly, by 6.1.1 in [3], if every closed subset of a Hausdorff space X is rigid, then X is compact. A Hausdorff space X in which every closed subset is an H -set is called *C-compact* [16], and there are noncompact, *C-compact* spaces [17, Example 2]. The next result will help us prove a property possessed by *C-compact* spaces.

(2.5) If $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is θ -continuous where X and Y are Hausdorff and if A is H -subset of X , then $f(A)$ is an H -subset of Y .

Proof. Let \mathcal{C} be cover of $f(A)$ by open subsets of Y . For each $a \in A$, there is open set $U_a \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $f(a) \in U_a$. There is an open set V_a of a such that $f(\text{cl } V_a) \subseteq \text{cl } U_a$. There is finite subset $B \subseteq A$ such that $A \subseteq \bigcup \{\text{cl } V_a: a \in B\}$. It follows that $f(A) \subseteq \bigcup \{\text{cl } U_a: a \in B\}$.

A Hausdorff space X is called *functionally compact* [4] if every continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space is closed. A *C-compact* space is functionally compact [4], and by 2.5, every θ -continuous function from a *C-compact* space into a Hausdorff space is closed. Clearly, a Hausdorff space X in which every θ -continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space is closed, is functionally compact. Surprisingly, the converse is true. We need the following definition and theorem to prove the converse.

A Hausdorff space X is called *θ -seminormal* [6] if for every θ -closed subset $A \subseteq X$ and every open set G containing A , there is regular open set R such that $A \subseteq R \subseteq G$.

(2.6) [6] A Hausdorff space is functionally compact if and only if it is H -closed and θ -seminormal.

(2.7) A Hausdorff space X is functionally compact if and only if every θ -continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space is closed.

Proof. The proof of one direction is obvious. To prove the converse, suppose X is functionally compact and $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a θ -continuous function where Y is Hausdorff. To prove f is closed, suppose $B \subseteq X$ is a closed subset and $p \in \text{cl}_Y f(B)$. By Corollary 2.1 in [4], X is H -closed. By 2.5, $f(X)$ is H -subset and, hence, closed in Y . So, $p \in f(X)$. Assume, by way of contradiction, that $p \notin f(B)$. So, $f^{-1}(p) \subseteq X \setminus B$. By 2.1, $f^{-1}(p)$, is θ -closed in X and by 2.6, there is regular open set R such that $f^{-1}(p) \subseteq R \subseteq X \setminus B$. Now, $B \subseteq X \setminus R$, but $X \setminus R$, the closure of an open set, is H -closed by 1.2 in [9]. By 2.5, $f(X/R)$ is an H -set, and hence, closed. This leads to a contradiction as $f(B) \subseteq f(X \setminus R)$ and $p \notin f(X \setminus R)$.

Problem. Characterize those Hausdorff spaces X with this property: every weakly θ -continuous function from X into a Hausdorff space is closed. A function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is weakly θ -continuous [5, 3] if for every $x \in X$ and open set V of $f(x)$, there is open set U of x such that $f(U) \subseteq \text{cl}_Y V$. Every compact Hausdorff space has this property; we are unaware of any noncompact Hausdorff space with this property.

3. θ -closure in H -closed extensions. With the use of the next result, we will derive a new characterization of those subsets of a Hausdorff space X that are θ -closed in κX .

(3.1) If Y is a Hausdorff extension of X and A is a rigid subset of X , then A is rigid in Y .

Proof. By 2.2, it suffices to show that A is θ -closed in κY . By 4.4 in [11], there is a continuous surjection $f: \kappa X \rightarrow \kappa Y$ such that that $f(x) = x$ for $x \in X$. Since κX is H -closed, then f is absolutely closed. Let $z \in \kappa Y \setminus A$. Then $f^{-1}(z)$ is rigid in κX by 2.3. Using that $\kappa(\kappa X) = \kappa X$, it follows by 2.2 that A is rigid in κX . By 1.5, there is open set U in κX such that $A \subseteq U$ and $\text{cl}_{\kappa X} U \cap f^{-1}(z) = \emptyset$. Let $W = \kappa Y \setminus f(\text{cl}_{\kappa X} U)$. Since f is regular closed by 2.3, W is open; also, $z \in W$. Now, $f^{-1}(W)$ is open in X and $f^{-1}(W) \cap \text{cl}_{\kappa X} U = \emptyset$. So $\text{cl}_{\kappa X} f^{-1}(W) \cap A = \emptyset$. Since $A = f^{-1}f(A)$ by 1.8 in [13], $f(\text{cl}_{\kappa X} f^{-1}(W)) \cap A = \emptyset$. Again, by 2.3, $f(\text{cl}_{\kappa X} f^{-1}(W))$ is closed implying $\text{cl}_{\kappa Y} W \cap A = \emptyset$. Thus, A is θ -closed in κY .

(3.2) Let X be a Hausdorff space and $A \subseteq X$. The following

are equivalent:

- (a) A is θ -closed in κX .
- (b) A is θ -closed in every Hausdorff extension of X .
- (c) A is θ -closed in σX .
- (d) A is θ -closed in some H -closed extension of X .

Proof. By 3.1 and 2.2, (a) implies (b). Clearly, (b) implies (c) and (c) implies (d).

(d) *implies* (a). Suppose A is θ -closed in an H -closed extension Y of X . By 4.4 in [11], there is a continuous surjection $f: \kappa X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(x) = x$ for $x \in X$. Let $z \in \kappa X \setminus A$. Since $f^{-1}f(A) = A$ by 1.8 in [13], then $f(z) \in Y \setminus A$. So, $\{f(z)\}$ and A are contained in disjoint open sets. By the continuity of f , $\{z\}$ and A are contained in disjoint open sets. So, A is θ -closed in κX .

It is not possible to replace " H -closed" in 3.4(d) by " Hausdorff " as a subset A of X can be θ -closed in some Hausdorff extension Y of X while A is not θ -closed in κX . For example, if X is Hausdorff but not H -closed, then X is θ -closed in the trivial Hausdorff extension X of X , but X is not θ -closed in κX .

For each Hausdorff space X , we let θX denote $\{q: q \text{ is open ultrafilter on } X\}$. For each open set U in X , let $G(U)$ denote $\{q \in \theta X: U \in q\}$; $\{G(U): U \text{ open in } X\}$ forms a basis for an extremally disconnected, compact Hausdorff topology on θX [8]. By 5.2 in [13] there is a θ -continuous, perfect irreducible function $\pi: \theta X \rightarrow \sigma X$ defined by $\pi(q) = q$ for each free open ultrafilter q on X and $\pi(q) = x$ where x is the unique convergent point of the fixed open ultrafilter q .

(3.3) Let X be a Hausdorff space and U, V open subsets of X .

(a) $G(U) \cap G(V) = G(U \cap V)$ and $G(U) \cup G(V) = G(U \cup V)$.

(b) If $x \in X$ and $\pi^{-1}(x) \subseteq G(U)$, then $x \in \text{int}_x \text{cl}_x U$.

(3.4) If X is a Hausdorff space and $A \subseteq X$, then $\pi^{-1}(A)$ is compact if and only if A is θ -closed in κX .

Proof. Suppose $\pi^{-1}(A)$ is compact. By 3.2, it suffices to show A is θ -closed in σX . Suppose $y \in \sigma X \setminus A$. By the compactness of $\pi^{-1}(A)$ and $\pi^{-1}(y)$, the Hausdorffness of θX , and 3.3(a), there are open sets U and V in X such that $\pi^{-1}(A) \subseteq G(U)$, $\pi^{-1}(y) \subseteq G(V)$, and $G(U) \cap G(V) = \emptyset$. Now, by 3.3(b), $A \subseteq \text{int}_x \text{cl}_x U$ and $y \in \text{int}_x \text{cl}_x V$. Since $\emptyset = G(U) \cap G(V) = G(U \cap V)$ and since every nonempty open set is contained in some open ultrafilter, then $U \cap V = \emptyset$. By 2.14 in [11], $\text{int}_x \text{cl}_x U \cap \text{int}_x \text{cl}_x V = \emptyset$. Thus, A and y are contained in

disjoint open sets in X and by 4.1(c) in [11], in κX .

Conversely, suppose A is θ -closed in κX and, hence, by 3.2, θ -closed in σX . It suffices to show $\pi^{-1}(A)$ is closed in θX . Let $y \in \theta X \setminus \pi^{-1}(A)$. Then $\pi(y) \notin A$, and there is open neighborhood U of $\pi(y)$ in σX such that $\text{cl}_{\sigma X} U \cap A = \emptyset$. So $\pi^{-1}(A) \cap \pi^{-1}(\text{cl}_{\sigma X} U) = \emptyset$. But $y \in \pi^{-1}(\pi(y)) \subseteq \text{int}_{\theta} \pi^{-1}(\text{cl}_{\sigma X} U)$. Hence, $\pi^{-1}(A)$ is closed in θX .

A liability of the concept " θ -continuity" is that the restriction of a θ -continuous function is not necessarily θ -continuous; this fact is emphasized by 3.4. In particular, if A is a θ -closed, but not H -closed, subspace in an H -closed space Y (e.g., the set of nonisolated points of the space Y of Example 1.1 in [3]), then by 3.4, $\pi^{-1}(A)$ is compact; however, $\pi|_{\pi^{-1}(A)}: \pi^{-1}(A) \rightarrow Y$ is not θ -continuous.

For a Hausdorff space X , let EX denote $\{q \in \theta X: q \text{ is fixed}\}$. Now, $\pi^{-1}(X) = EX$ and $\pi|_{EX}: EX \rightarrow X$ is a θ -continuous, perfect, irreducible function (see [8, Th. 10]). Porter and Votaw [13] proved that $\sigma(EX) = E(\sigma X)$ if and only if the set of nonisolated points of EX is compact. We now characterize when σ and E commute in terms of X .

COROLLARY (3.5). *Let X be a Hausdorff space $\sigma(EX) = E(\sigma X)$ if and only if the set of nonisolated points of X is θ -closed in κX .*

Proof. Let A be the set of nonisolated points of X . By Theorem 5.8 in [13], $\pi^{-1}(A)$ is the set of nonisolated points of EX . The stated result now follows immediately by 3.4.

It is known that [10] no H -closed space is the countable union of compact nowhere dense subspaces and that [10] there exists an H -closed space that is the countable union of closed nowhere dense subspaces. An unsolved problem by Mioduszewski [10] is whether some H -closed space is the countable union of H -closed nowhere dense subspaces. We now show that no H -closed space is the countable union of θ -closed nowhere dense subspaces.

(3.6) An H -closed space is not the countable union of θ -closed nowhere dense subspaces.

Proof. Assume, by way of contradiction, that X is an H -closed space and $X = \bigcup \{A_n: n \in N\}$ where each A_n is nowhere dense and θ -closed in X . Since X is H -closed, then $X = \kappa X = \sigma X$ and $\theta X = EX$. By 3.4, $\pi^{-1}(A_n)$ is compact for each $n \in N$. If $\pi^{-1}(A_n)$ contains a nonempty open set, then by the irreducibility and closedness of π [8, Lemma 17], $\pi(\pi^{-1}(A_n)) = A_n$ contains a nonempty open set. So, each $\pi^{-1}(A_n)$ is nowhere dense. Hence, the compact Hausdorff

space θX is the countable union of nowhere dense closed subsets, a contradiction.

A space has the *countable chain condition* (c.c.c.) if every family of pairwise disjoint nonempty open sets is countable. One of the equivalent forms (see [14]) of Martin's axiom is the following: Every compact Hausdorff space with ccc is not the union of less than $c(=2^{\aleph_0})$ closed nowhere dense subsets.

(3.7) Martin's axiom is equivalent to

(*) every H -closed space with c.c.c. is not the union of less than c θ -closed nowhere dense subsets.

Proof. Clearly, (*) implies the "compact Hausdorff" form of Martin's axiom. Conversely, suppose Martin's axiom is true and X is an H -closed space with c.c.c. Since X is H -closed, then $\theta X = EX$. Using the fact $\text{int}_x \pi(U) \neq \emptyset$ for every nonempty open set U of EX , it follows that EX has c.c.c. If X is the union of α , a cardinal number, θ -closed nowhere dense subsets, then, as in the proof of 3.6, the compact Hausdorff space EX with c.c.c. is also the union of α closed nowhere dense subsets. Thus, (*) is true.

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